

2009 Fall Symposium

What Works: Powerful Solutions in Challenging Times



Keynote speaker Jim Everett, CEO, Treasure Valley YMCA, shares workable solutions (photo by Diane Ronayne)

What works? We wanted to know. Nonprofits need solid solutions to sustain themselves in difficult economic times. For our IWCF Fall Symposium, we asked successful organizations to share their strategies for success while under duress.

We expected our keynote speaker Jim Everett, CEO of Treasure Valley YMCA for over 20 years, would have some good answers. His advice was clear: First, there

are no easy answers. Darn. But here's what's worked for him: build relationships; sustain work patterns — follow through; and thank those who pitch in to help.

During the morning workshop Director Kurt Alderman shared the recipe for success that Life's Kitchen's offers. The ingredients include hands-on vocational training, job interviewing skills, case management and communication development. Jaime Hansen, resident social worker, supplied statistics that characterize attending students. Stephanie Curtis, a successful graduate of the program, told how her experiences had prepared her for college.

With an 87% success rate, Jan Rinker of CATCH Ada County and Christy Thomas of CATCH Canyon County (Charitable Assistance to Community's Homeless) had our attention! CATCH bridges the gap between faith communities and city government, providing rent for 6 months in a living space while families receive full-

time case management. With this support clients are able to obtain jobs that can make them self sufficient before the 6 months is over. With steady program growth and an 87% success rate of homeless individuals getting jobs, maintaining rent and allowing their children to stay at the same schools, CATCH has found some workable solutions.

Held on Friday, October 9, 2009, in the new Simplot Ballroom at the BSU Student Union Building, over 135 IWCF Members and their guests were on hand for the workshops, keynote address and luncheon. Three nonprofit organizations were featured in this event, two in the morning workshop: Life's Kitchen and CATCH; and one during the keynote address: Treasure Valley YMCA.

Though the answers given to our theme question were not simple solutions or slogans, our speakers confirmed that success is achievable even in challenging times.

IWCF Endowment Campaign Update: Meet the Match!

by Alicia Ritter, Endowment Committee Co-Chair

At our Fall Luncheon the Endowment Committee announced that we are well on our way to meeting our goal of \$150,000 in pledges by March 2011. As of October, IWCF members have pledged \$54,000, which includes early pledges following our March endowment announcement, 100% board participation and members of the endowment committee.

But now we need you!

This past summer, the IWCF Board announced a goal of distributing *Two Million Dollars* to our community by 2012. While IWCF prides itself on keeping our administrative costs low, in order for IWCF to have sustainable growth we need to provide

for administrative support to have consistency and efficiency. An operating endowment is a pool of funds used to support an organization's operating expenses, and in IWCF's case, an endowment will provide the operating funds necessary to continue to meet our philanthropy goals.

Our \$150,000 matching grant has been generously awarded by the Charitable Leadership Foundation of New York. This is a dollar for dollar match, doubling our money.

We have until Fall of next year to achieve an additional \$75,000 in pledges and up through the 2011 deadline to realize the remaining \$25,000. However, the endowment

committee feels strongly that the sooner we Meet the Match, the sooner the money can start working for us — providing the essential administrative funds to support our community giving. Working together with everyone pledging — regardless of the size of the donation — we can Meet the Match by our annual meeting next May!

The endowment committee invites all members to participate in this endowment campaign to guarantee IWCF's future in perpetuity. Please call Alicia Ritter, Alice Hennessey or Kim Liebich, endowment committee co-chairs, if you have questions about the endowment or would like to discuss your pledge.

From the President

Dear IWCF Members,

This fall marks the eighth year since the inception of IWCF's beginning — a group of women getting together to see what they could do to improve our community as a team, rather than individually. I remain in awe of what we have been able to accomplish in this short amount of time.

At our board retreat this past summer we discussed our mission statement — *IWCF is a dynamic membership organization committed to raising philanthropic consciousness while positively impacting the community through significant collaborative giving.* As an organization we are certainly aligned with the intent behind the wording. IWCF members are from diverse backgrounds and lifestyles and together we have positively impacted our community with over a million dollars in pooled and individual funds! We believe strongly in our mission, and I believe most members do as well.

Philanthropy is a powerful resource for many in challenging times — it brings people and organizations together through the struggle to meet the many needs in our community. Pooled giving is a strong tool for helping others, but it's also a powerful mechanism for bringing like-minded women together for a common cause. The people we have worked with, the philosophies that have been shared, the projects we have funded and the knowledge we have gleaned from IWCF inspires me every day — and hopefully our members feel the same way.

Philanthropy is visionary — it is a lifelong pursuit of inspired generosity and a willingness to help others. IWCF has set our bar high with our goal of giving *Two Million Dollars by 2012*. With our recently-established endowment to sustain us into the future, our valued members who believe we can change the world with philanthropy, and the belief in and adherence to our mission — we look forward to a future of inspired philanthropy!

In gratitude,

Susan Smith, President

IWCF Member in the News

Marilyn Shuler, a renowned Idaho human rights activist, has been chosen as this year's recipient of the *Ralph J. Comstock Light of Philanthropy Award*. The award will be presented at the annual Award Ceremony and St. Luke's Ball on Saturday, November 14th (for information or tickets contact St. Luke's Health Foundation at 381-2123).

Marilyn served as director of the Idaho Human Rights Commission from 1978 to 1998 and was central in bringing the Anne Frank Memorial to Boise. She has also served on the boards of the Boise Public School District, the Boise Redevelopment Agency, the Boise Family YMCA, Boise Committee on Foreign Relations, the Osher Lifelong Learning Program at BSU, Idaho Public Television, City Club of Boise and PERSI. She has received numerous accolades for her work in human rights; including *Traditional Home* magazine's 2005 Classic Woman award and Boise State Alumni Association's 2006 Distinguished Alumni award, as well as an honorary doctorate from the University of Idaho.

In addition to her work with IWCF, Marilyn also founded the John Shuler Fund at the Idaho Dept. of Health & Welfare, named after her late husband, for the benefit of children in foster care. She has been a guardian ad litem for children in the custody of the State and a foster parent through the Casey Family Program, as well as a volunteer for the Boise Greenbelt patrol. Marilyn has been an IWCF member since 2006, and has enjoyed working one year on the grants committee and on the education committee.

Questions for Marilyn:

What has been the most rewarding aspect of IWCF for you? I love seeing women working together to help strengthen our community and I'm proud to know that the grants were vetted and selected in a thoughtful manner.

How could you recommend members become more involved in IWCF? Joining a committee is a great way to learn more about yourself and others. I especially like the opportunity to be with people from many age groups.

Which of the many organizations you have been part of do you feel has made the biggest impact on our community, and why? When I was a very young mother many of us were angry that Idaho had no public kindergarten. Rather than moan about the injustice, for three years we operated 12 non-tuition kindergartens for low income kids utilizing hundreds of volunteers. I learned so much about the impact of poverty on children and how rapidly young children learn. In 1975 the legislature, with a lot of prodding from Governor Andrus and all those volunteers, finally appropriated funds for public kindergartens.

What are your plans for the future? I plan to be happy and know that I am happiest when I'm doing something with other people. I love being with hard working, caring and talented individuals who have crazy ideas about making the world a better place for all.

Thank you Marilyn, for all your work to make our community a better place, and for your years of service to IWCF!

IWCF Accepting Letters of Interest for 2010 Grants Cycle!

This is an exciting time of year wherein IWCF is accepting "Letter of Inquiry" (LOI) forms from nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations, schools or other tax exempt entities serving southwestern Idaho (specifically the counties corresponding to the Idaho Dept. of Health and Welfare Regions 3 and 4) for potential funding from its 2010 pooled grant fund. LOI forms are due (without exception) *by December 1, 2009.*

Five general interest areas are considered for this funding: Cultural Arts, Financial Security, Education, Environment and Health. Selected projects will subsequently be invited to submit complete proposals in early February 2010 for grants ranging between \$10,000 and \$25,000. Final candidates will then be voted on by the entire IWCF membership for the 2010 grants distribution.

IWCF has invested over *One Million Dollars* in southwest Idaho since its inception in 2001 — \$521,500 through individual designations to approximately 120 organizations, and \$583,110 in grants funding 31 different projects.

If you know of a project or organization that would be a good fit for proposed funding, please pass along this information.

For the LOI form and instructions, see *IdahoWomensCharitableFoundation.org*.

Strategic Planning Report

by Ann DeAngeli, Communications Chair

The Board of Directors spent two busy days in Hailey, Idaho in July examining our goals and priorities, what we would like to accomplish as a growing philanthropic organization — how to enrich the experience for our valued members and continue to thrive as an important asset to our community well into the future.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Janice Stevenor Dale, who led the process with much expertise and professionalism, as well as Kristin Hoff Sinclair, who compiled a great deal of work and information going into the strategic planning process. Because of their tireless efforts, we were able to narrow our focus to a few key ideals: specifically (1) improving communication and interaction between the committees, (2) refining the grants process in order to streamline the process, and (3) improving IWCF's visibility as a philanthropic leader in our community.

We also discussed ways in which to increase or improve our member satisfaction — is IWCF a meaningful experience worthy of our members' time and money? Since 2001 the IWCF membership retention rate is 95%! That's HUGE in that it tells us our members believe in our philosophy of *educated, informed giving*. Although we always appreciate referrals of new members; we especially appreciate our current members who have reinforced the effectiveness of the *power of the pool!*

We also owe a debt of gratitude to our board members, who spent two summer days brainstorming and working in an effort to ensure IWCF remains viable well into the future. We also much appreciated the generosity of our gracious hosts, Marcia and Don Liebich, who accommodated the entire board in their lovely Hailey home — what a beautiful working environment!

One thing we have learned from this whole process is how important teamwork is — not just for the board, but the organization as a whole as well as our entire community.

2010 Grants Committee

Help Select Our 2010 Projects

by Gena Delucchi,

Grants Committee Chair

I encourage all IWCF members to consider serving on the Grants Committee at least one time in order to fully experience the core function of our organization. Serving on an Interest Area Workgroup might be the most rewarding nonprofit work you do this year.

On **Thursday, November 12th**, IWCF will hold a Pooled Grants Process Orientation at Esther Simplot Performing Art Academy (516 S. 9th Street, Boise, at the corner of Myrtle Street) from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Free parking for ESPAA guests is located directly across 9th street from the facility.

This meeting includes an overview of the steps we take to "winnow" almost 100 Letters of Inquiry from nonprofits to the projects selected for the final ballot presented to members in April. This is a great way to learn about IWCF's community impact funding, especially for new members, even if you are unable to sign up for a workgroup.

Lunch will be available for \$10 paid at the door. Please RSVP for lunch and no lunch (or you are welcome to bring your own) to Gena Delucchi GenaD@cablone.net or 327-0408 so we know how many to set up for. Also, contact me if you cannot attend this meeting but want to get involved in the process this year. I can arrange to meet with you individually to go over the materials in our Pooled Grants handbook.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Since June 2009

Stacy Slattery—*Thank you Tina Michael*

Kathy Pearson—*Thank you Lee McKeown*

Positive change through thoughtful giving

Member Corner

Esther Oppenheimer, an IWCF member since 2004, has been honored with the Girl Scouts of Silver Sage: Women of Today and Tomorrow award. The award will be presented at a luncheon on November 2, 2009 at Boise Centre on the Grove (call 377-2011, ext. 126 for more information).

Congratulations Esther, and thank you for your membership and work for IWCF and our community!

Please see future editions of our newsletter for members in the news — or submit any information to Ann DeAngeli at anndeangeli@msn.com or call 384-1937.

THANK YOU!

Fall Luncheon & Workshop

We would like to send a very special thanks to Jim Everett, CEO - Treasure Valley Family YMCA.

Our presenters:

Kurt Alderman, Life's Kitchen
Jan Rinker, CATCH

Our table sponsors:

Dr. Sona Andrews, Office of the Provost,
Boise State University
Eileen Barber, Keynetics and
Lisa Derig Merrill Lynch
Kim Liebich
Tina Michael
Susan Smith

Our hardworking board members and committee members with special thanks to:

Amy Rustad
Jan Scripps
Janelle Wise

Extra special gift of time and caring:

Jim Doering, handcrafted our wonderful nametag boards and we appreciate him.

Grantee Follow-up

by Gena Delucchi, Grants Chair

On September 27th, several IWCF members toured several community gardens cultivated by Boise refugee residents. In 2006, IWCF provided \$10,000 to Mountain States Agency for New Americans to create a garden site at Hillview Methodist Church and for expansion at the Silver Sage Community Garden in order to allow more refugee families to grow some of their own food. Since our funding, the program has expanded to several more sites and fostered a small agribusiness.



Ibrahim Musa with the Somali Bantu Community Farm describes his experiences selling vegetables at downtown farmer's markets.

It was a beautiful late summer day as we gathered at King of Glory Lutheran Church to sign in and peruse brochures. The full-sized bus, chartered through a grant from Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education, slowly filled with passengers. The African ladies on board were decked out in their finery: brightly color-coordinated tops, skirts, and turban-like hats.

Our first stop was at the Somali Bantu Community Farm, located on about 3 acres behind the Camille Beckman facility off State Street in Eagle. The owners, Foad and Susan Roghani, donate the use of land and water. Several people put their new English skills to use to explain the history and operations of the farm. There is a core group of workers who take home produce in exchange for their work. Excess produce and cash crops are harvested and sold at the Edward's Greenhouse Tuesday market, the downtown Boise Saturday market and to several local restaurants. The farm produces a mix of traditional African crops and more typical American crops. Our hosts made a clear distinction between African corn (field corn used to make corn meal and porridge) and the American sweet corn grown for market. Proceeds from veggie sales are deposited in the Somali Bantu Community Fund for farm expenses and community needs.

Another farm site is located on Allumbaugh Street in Boise, next to the Darigold facility. It first started on land offered by the residents of a small house and last year expanded onto Darigold land. This site has no individual plots but is also managed communally (many immigrants live in an apartment complex directly across the street), assisted by an Americorps employee. African crops such as amaranth are grown for gardeners' use as cooked greens, along with maize, tomatoes, peppers, beans, squash and herbs. The concept of proper crop spacing is catching on with the growers, who previously had to cram as many plants as possible, wherever they could, at refugee camps.

The bus returned to King of Glory where we admired the small individual plots in the first year of gardening for this church. A delicious meal, featuring produce from the farms or donated from other local sources and prepared by immigrant cooks, was served.

For more information about this program go to www.idahorefugees.org/home/global_gardens.

Education Events

by Janelle Wise, Education Chair

November 19, 2009: 11:30-1:00 at City Light
Homelessness in our Community

Have you ever wondered about the strategies used by agencies serving Boise's homeless and about the success they might have reaching their goals? Janelle Wise will engage agency representatives in a spirited dialogue to help us understand how well our community is doing in addressing this thorny issue. Following the event we will tour City Light.

January 25, 2010: 9:30-12:00 at Birds of Prey
Family Fun at the World Center for Birds of Prey

The World Center for Birds of Prey will open their doors for us on a day when school is not in session. The focus will be on the environment, conservation, adaptation and biology/ecology of birds. Education will include hands-on activities, live bird demonstrations, and engaging presentations. This is a family friendly event.

February 22, 2010: 11:30-1:00 at Life's Kitchen
Craftswomen Changing the World

While enjoying a lunch especially prepared for us at Life's Kitchen, learn about the work that impoverished female artisans with little education have been doing to lift their families out of poverty. Paola Gianturco's books show the work and tell the stories of women all over the world who are creating and selling beautiful indigenous crafts resulting in thriving micro-enterprises in many developing countries.

April 22, 2010: 11:30-1:00 Downtown Boise
Enjoy Earth Day with an Art Walk Downtown

Back by popular demand, we will enjoy another Art Walk through Boise's downtown to view city-sponsored public art. At last spring's walk, we covered only a handful of the many pieces placed throughout the city. Join us to visit even more of these works that make Boise even more beautiful.

2009 National Philanthropy Day

The Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Idaho Chapter selected its 2009 National Philanthropy Day honorees, and this year (as in many years past) one of IWCF's longtime members, Pam Parker, will be honored. Pam's work in our community is being recognized in her honor as Outstanding Development Executive. Pam has been instrumental to many Idaho nonprofits and organizations, and an invaluable member of IWCF since 2001.

IWCF has agreed to be a philanthropy partner for the **November 12, 2009 7:30 a.m. breakfast**, (with the cost to be offset by board member contributions) and we welcome the opportunity to honor Pam — as well as the other honorees — at the AFP event. When asked whom IWCF would like to designate as a philanthropy hero; there was unconditional agreement that we would like to honor (1) our members and (2) our grantees. Only with the dedication and support of each and every member has IWCF been able to contribute so much to our community — and the many worthwhile projects our grantees have been able to accomplish have been phenomenal.

For more information on the AFP breakfast or to purchase a ticket, please contact Beth Markley at (208) 484-4424 or beth@markley.com.

Membership Needs You!

by Donna Wetherley, Membership Chair

Renewal notices went out recently to our members asking for annual membership dues, and for continued support of pooled giving. Our renewal period is **now through January 25, 2010**; you choose when you would like to recognize the tax benefit of your donation, this year or in 2010.

Fall is the time to encourage our friends and family to join IWCF. New members who join by March 1st have the opportunity to participate in the pooled grants process — which is one of the most rewarding aspects of membership.

This summer the IWCF Board of Directors committed to a goal of *Two Million Dollars* in giving by 2012 — which means we would like to break the two-million dollar mark of individual and pooled gifts given with our grants presentation in May of 2012. To do this we need your help with your continued membership.

The membership committee is hoping to reach our goal of 250 members by year's end. To accomplish this, we are looking for members willing to host a recruitment gathering in their home. Additionally, if you know someone who may be interested in receiving more information about IWCF, we are willing to meet with you individually.

Additionally, we would like to instigate a "Partners in Philanthropy" program. In order to more seamlessly incorporate new members into the IWCF community, we are hoping to pair an existing member with a new member. The "partner" does nothing more than making a welcome phone call, keeping an open line of communication throughout their first year and perhaps inviting them to attend IWCF events.

If you are able to help with either of these, please contact Donna Wetherley at 345-9207 or wetherleys@cablone.net. Please help us sustain our momentum with your renewed membership. We are immensely grateful for your support!

Positive change through thoughtful giving



Idaho
Women's
Charitable
Foundation

P.O. Box 6164
Boise, Idaho 83707

Save the Dates!

Upcoming Education

and Grants events

you will not

want to miss!

*November 12, 2009
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Pooled Grants Process Orientation
Esther Simplot Performing Art Academy*

*November 19, 2009
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Homelessness in our Community
City Lights Shelter*

*January 25, 2010
9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Family Fun at the World Center for Birds of Prey*

*February 16, 2010
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Grants: Evaluating Proposals for Community Impact
Esther Simplot Performing Art Academy*

*February 22, 2010
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Craftswomen Changing the World
Life's Kitchen*

*April 22, 2010
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Earth Day with an Art Walk
Downtown Boise*

www.IdahoWomensCharitableFoundation.org